

# Florence Gell Park Playground Improvements

## Survey Summary Report

[December 23, 2021]

Leah Lanteigne, Senior Project Coordinator



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## Project Background

Florence Gell Park is located at 85 Varsity Road in Etobicoke York.

The playground currently includes:

- Two swing sets with:
  - Four belt swings
  - Two bucket swings
- A senior climbing structure with two slides
- A junior climbing structure with one small slide
- Sand under all play areas

The playground will be redesigned informed by feedback from the community. The redesigned playground is proposed to include:

- A full playground redevelopment including accessible play equipment
- An accessible pathway connecting to the new playground area
- Woodchip playground surfacing
- An elevated wood sandbox

Improvements will only be made in the general playground area. This project will not include any new water or lighting features, or improvements to other areas of the park.

## Survey Objectives

In November 2021, the City conducted an online survey to obtain feedback from community members to inform the Florence Gell Park playground improvements. Survey participants were given the opportunity to review four playground design options and choose their favourite.

The survey was available from November 24 to December 8, 2021. The survey received a total of **294 responses**. Some survey submissions included feedback from multiple people (e.g. entire households). In total, **808 people participated** in the survey responses collected.

The feedback from the survey will inform the selection and refinement of the playground improvements.

## Notification

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

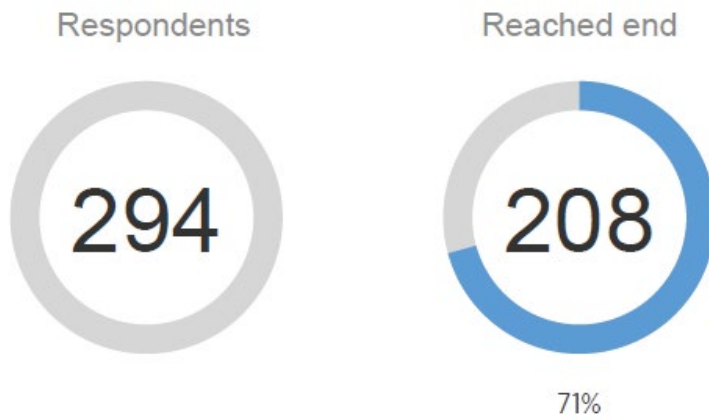
- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- Project webpage: [www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)
- On-site signage

## Key Feedback Highlights

- When asked to rank their playground design preference, respondents ranked Design C highest (34%) followed by Design D (33%), Design B (18%) and Design A (15%)
- The preferred colour scheme for the new playground was earthy colours, like green, brown, and grey (60%) over bright colours, like yellow, orange, and purple (27%). No colour preference was noted by 12% of respondents.
- The preferred type of ground cover for the new playground was wood chips (56%), over sand (33%) and rubber (13%). No preference was noted by 10% of respondents.
- The five more important features to include in the new playground are:
  - Climbing structures (77%)
  - The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 (74%)
  - The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 (59%)
  - Belt swings (55%)
  - Toddler swings (42%)
- The three least important playground features to include in the improved playground are:
  - Play panels (54%)
  - Stand-up spinner toys (49%)
  - Stand-alone toys (e.g. spring toy, teeter totter) (35%)
- If budget permits, the three features respondents would like more of in the improved playground are:
  - Climbing structures (58%)
  - The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 (33%)
  - Belt swings (31%)

## Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

The following provides a summary of the raw survey responses collected. Offensive language or comments have been removed.



Rank the playground designs in order from your favourite (1) to your least favourite (4).














Rank the playground designs in order from your favourite (1) to your least favourite (4)

	% of responses	%
Playground Design C	<div></div>	34%
Playground Design D	<div></div>	33%
Playground Design B	<div></div>	18%
Playground Design A	<div></div>	15%

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# What are the 5 most important features to include in the new playground?

What are the 5 most important features to include in the new playground.

	Count	% of responses	%
Climbing structures	164		77%
The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12	157		74%
The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5	126		59%
Belt swings	116		55%
Toddler swings	90		42%
Spiral slide	68		32%
Straight slide	58		27%
Stand-alone toys (e.g. spring toy, teeter totter)	39		18%
Double slide	36		17%
Other, please specify	36		17%
Group/accessible swing	35		17%
Stand-up spinner toys	23		11%
Play panels	19		9%















Respondents who selected "Other" provided the following comments:

- toys that you can use in a group
- Swing for more than one person
- Open field - treed space, benches & tables
- Monkey bars
- More than two swings
- Splash pad
- These options are terrible. Don't move it right beside the roads and instead just rebuild the existing structure!! I've lived at --- for 20+ years and have two kids of playground use age and I'm telling you all the kids and parents love the existing structure and positions.
- We would really like to have a tube much like the one already on our playground and the colour red (preferably red slides) because we refer to the park as the red park, and have for years. Finally we would like to say (this is coming from most of the children in the neighbourhood) we would really just prefer if you replaced the wood and bolts etc. And kept the playground design the same. This playground is absolutely fantastic and all the proposed designs seem quite awful.
- Upgraded splash area. The current one is super hard to press the button and clogs constantly.
- The current playground is not at the end of its useful life. Revisit this in a few years
- Public seating
- Merry go round toy
- wood please
- monkey bars, tunnel
- Opportunities for risk in play. When you put too many barriers and safety features the options for play are dramatically reduced and the children find it boring
- Climbing nets, monkey bars, zip line
- Green space for sports activities
- Real wood pieces, such as logs for climbing. Natural materials are important for children
- climbing wall; creativity / imagination spaces
- Monkey bars, climbing nets, etc
- Natural materials
- Platform areas for kids to run/ hang out on the park structure itself
- Monkey bars

- Structures which foster imagination, natural materials such as wood, creative designs - all the proposed options are incredibly mundane and do not excite
- Monkey bars
- Play equipment that promotes risk-taking
- Monkey bars/rings
- How do the current uses integrate in the new design. The playground has pathways between used by kids on trikes. What happens to this use? Shade - less shade along Althea. And it's closer to traffic with limited room for seating on the roadside. Caregivers with multiple and different aged kids will be stressed trying to navigate street use on Althea on top of supervising the playground structures.
- I would prefer the big kid and little kid playgrounds be seprere as they are now, to avoid injury of littles
- Manually powered spinning carousel
- Monkey Bars and Zipline
- Monkey bars for hanging
- The fire fighter pole. (Those are always so fun to slide down).
- Splash pad
- water feature
- there should be a new splash pad factored into this new playground plan. The existing water feature is horrendous

## What are the 3 least important features to include improved playground?

What are the 3 least important features to include in the improved playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Play panels	115		54%
Stand-up spinner toys	103		49%
Stand-alone toys (e.g. spring toy, teeter totter)	75		35%
Double slide	56		26%
Group/accessible swing	38		18%
None	27		13%
Spiral slide	23		11%
Straight slide	20		9%
Belt swings	12		6%
The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5	12		6%
Toddler swings	10		5%
Climbing structures	10		5%
The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12	9		4%
Other, please specify	8		4%

N 212














Respondents who selected "Other" provided the following comments:

- Adult calisthenics
- We would really like to have a tube much like the one already on our playground and the colour red (preferably red slides) because we refer to the park as the red park, and have for years. Finally we would like to say (this is coming from most of the children in the neighbourhood) we would really just prefer if you replaced the wood and bolts etc. And kept the playground design the same. This playground is absolutely fantastic and all the proposed designs seem quite awful
- Newness and plastic.
- Public seating
- bright coloured plastic and metal. The colour of the playground makes no difference to the children and is an eyesore to the neighbours. Natural materials are much preferred.
- No opinion
- Without a structure that inspires kids to explore, none of the above matter

- Do not move closer to road, keep existing location

If budget permits, what features would you like more of? Select up to 3 features.

If budget permits, what features would you like more of? Select up to 3 features.

	Count	% of responses	%
Climbing structures	122		58%
The senior play structure for ages 5 to 12	71		33%
Belt swings	65		31%
The junior play structure for ages 2 to 5	43		20%
Stand-alone toys (e.g. spring toy, teeter totter)	42		20%
Other, please specify	37		17%
Toddler swings	35		17%
Spiral slide	35		17%
Group/accessible swing	27		13%
Straight slide	23		11%
Double slide	21		10%
Stand-up spinner toys	21		10%
Play panels	10		5%

Respondents who selected "Other" provided the following comments:





- group stand alone or stand up spinner toys
- the large standalone toy that is a o donut shape that spins for a group
- Splash pad
- Firepole
- There are 6 swings there now there should NOT be less then there is now
- Red slides and a tube like the one we have currently. But again we would all prefer if you kept the playground the same. It's way better than all of the awful designs you have proposed.
- Wood material. The material in these examples Does not exemplify the area.
- Wood and natural materials.
- Public seating
- Merry go round toy
- double slide in Junior only.
- Zipline
- Splash pad
- Zip line, various monkey bars
- Water play area
- Tunnels, sensory activities, ramps and bridges
- Splash Pad
- More wood (log) structures
- splash pad
- Exercise bars
- Excercise units for adults
- Exercise equipment/ monkey bars
- Monkey bars, adult exercise structures
- Please provide a new creative design, or spend the budget refurbishing the existing playground
- Don't take away the splash pad!
- Naturalized playground, similar to Humbertown Park



- Bigger structure for the 5-12 age group
- Splash pad
- Carousel or something unique along those lines
- Monkey Bars and Zipline
- Monkey bars
- Splash pad improvements
- Splash pad that is there, especially if no shade provided in new play area
- saucer swing
- water features
- A much, much better splash pad
- Splash Pad

What type of ground cover would you like under the playground?  
Select all that apply.




What types of ground cover would you like under the playground? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Wood chips	119		56%
Sand	71		33%
Rubber (note: rubber is expensive. To balance out this cost, the number of playground features would be reduced from what is presented in the designs above)	27		13%
No Preference	22		10%

N 212

What types of colours do you like best for the new playground?

What types of colours do you like best for the new playground?

	Count	% of responses	%
Bright colours, like yellow, orange, and purple	58		27%
Earthy colours, like green, brown, and grey	128		60%
No preference	26		12%






N 212

## Demographics

Number of survey participants by age range (Note that more than one person could participate in the same survey, for example, multiple members of a household):









- 0 to 4 years old: 164
- 5 to 12 years old: 188
- 13 to 18 years old: 43
- 19 to 29 years old: 19
- 30 to 39 years old: 181
- 40 to 55 years old: 163
- 56 to 64 years old: 19
- 65 to 74 years old: 23
- 75 years old or above: 8

Who is giving their feedback through this survey? (select all that apply)

	Count	% of responses	%
Parent/guardian/caregiver(s) of a playground user	200		68%
Playground user(s) age 5 or younger	73		25%
Playground user(s) age 6 to 12	70		24%
Community member(s) who do not use the playground	43		15%
Playground user(s) age 13 or older	24		8%










N 293

Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes your gender?

	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	130		65%
Man	45		23%
Prefer not to answer	27		14%
Not listed, please describe.	6		3%
Trans woman	1		1%
Trans man	1		1%
Two-Spirit	1		1%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	1		1%












N 200

Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes your sexual orientation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	143		73%
Prefer not to answer	40		20%
Bisexual	6		3%
Not listed, please describe	5		3%
Don't know	3		2%
Gay	1		1%
Lesbian	1		1%
Queer	1		1%
Two-Spirit	1		1%








N 197

People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes you? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	120		61%
Prefer not to answer	45		23%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese)	9		5%
More than one race category or mixed race	9		5%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	8		4%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	5		3%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	5		3%
Other, please describe	5		3%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	4		2%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	2		1%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	2		1%




N 197

### What language do you prefer speaking?

	Count	% of responses	%
English	183		96%
Prefer not to answer	2		1%
Albanian	1		1%
French	1		1%
Indigenous - Mohawk	1		1%
Polish	1		1%
Russian	1		1%
American Sign Language	0		
Amharic	0		
Arabic	0		
Armenian	0		
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	0		
Bengali	0		
Chinese - Cantonese	0		
Chinese - Mandarin	0		
Chinese - Other Dialects	0		
Farsi	0		
Greek	0		
Gujarati	0		
Hindi	0		

N 190

Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	7		4%
No	161		82%
Prefer not to answer	28		14%

N 196

Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability?

	Count	% of responses	%
Yes	12		6%
No	153		78%
Don't know	2		1%
Prefer not to answer	30		15%

N 197

What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	148		74%
Renting	21		11%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	5		3%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	23		12%
Not listed, please describe	3		2%

N 200

What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	142		71%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	9		5%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	22		11%
Prefer not to answer	26		13%

N 199

## Appendix B: Playground Design and Equipment Options

### Playground Design Option A





- Playground Design Option A includes: A swingset with:
  - Two belt swings
  - One toddler swing
  - One accessible swing
- One junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 with:
  - One double slide
  - One transfer station
  - One climbing option
  - One curvy climbing pole
  - One wheel panel
  - One balcony deck
  - One Simon Says panel
- One senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 with:
  - Two curvy slides
  - One transfer station
  - Two climbing options
  - One sliding pole
  - Multiple play panels
- One stand up spinner toy
- One dragonfly teeter totter
- One snail spring toy

#### Playground Design Option B



## Playground Design Option B includes:

- A swingset with:
  - Two belt swings
  - One toddler swing
  - One accessible swing
- One junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 with:
  - One double slide
  - One transfer station
  - One climbing option
  - Two play panels
- One senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 with:
  - One spiral slide
  - One transfer station
  - Three climbing options

## Playground Design Option C







Playground

- Design Option C includes: A swingset with:
  - One toddler swing
  - One accessible swing
- One junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 with:
  - One curvy slide
  - One transfer station
  - One climbing option
  - One play panel
- One senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 with:
  - One curvy slide
  - One transfer station
  - Four climbing options
  - Three sets of climbing rings & bars
  - One net climber
  - Multiple play panels
  - One motion paddle toy
- One spring toy
- One stand-up spinner toy

#### Playground Design Option D







Playground Design Option D includes:

- A swingset with:
  - Two belt swings
  - One toddler swing
  - One accessible swing
- One junior play structure for ages 2 to 5 with:

- One double slide
- One transfer station
- Two climbing options
- One play panel
- One wheel panel
- One senior play structure for ages 5 to 12 with:
  - One curvy slide
  - One straight slide
  - One transfer station
  - Three climbing options
  - One set of climbing rings
  - One chinning bar
  - One play panels
  - One plank bridge
  - One stand-up spinner toy

## Appendix C: Email Responses

This appendix includes emails **received** and **City of Toronto responses** while the survey was open.

Emails to Councillor Perks' office and/or City of Toronto:

1. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

Thanks for the chance to fill out the survey on the park. It's much loved and used by the neighbourhood.

I had a question though about the impact of the the development at Old Dundas and Dundas and the impacts of its demise on funding for Florence Gell. This development has recently announced it is not proceeding and the site will be remediated and I presume sold.

Were there funds from this project directed to Florence Gell park or another part of the surrounding community that have now disappeared?

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

This project is part of the Playground Enhancement Program. Funding is allocated as part of the Council approved Parks, Forestry & Recreation Capital Projects Budget. There is no funding allocation associated to community development.

2. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

I have just completed the community engagement survey online for Florence Gell Playground and felt that there wasn't space for specific feedback regarding the design and proposed changes.

My biggest concern is the change in location of the current play structures compared to the new proposed location. I understand that the trees are of concern in this change, however I am more concerned with having young children moved much closer to the road. There are many many children that use Florence Gell every single day. These children range from 1-12 years old. Having them back from the road is much safer and I feel the location should be left as it is presently.

Additionally, one of the most fun and appealing parts of this playground is that it is a wooden playground. Not only is it more aesthetically appealing than those metal ones, but the children truly love the playground and have so much fun there. I would really like to have a naturalized playground replace the existing. Something similar to what was put in at Humbertown Park would be truly phenomenal. Alternatively, if we must go the metal route, Ravina Gardens is great one.

Your consideration of the above matters are greatly appreciated. I hope that true community input will be upheld during the planning phase as our community is very tight knit and Florence Gell is something we all hold near and dear to our hearts.

#### City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

The playground location has been moved directly adjacent to the existing senior playground due to a series of challenging site conditions. Increased play equipment safety setback requirements, and mature tree TPZs (Tree Protection Zones) have resulted in the existing southern location being unfit for a new playground equipment and CSA requirements. A new low metal decorative fence is proposed to run alongside the proposed playground location; adequate sight lines will be maintained while obstructing direct access to Althea Road. Space where the existing playground is to be removed will be sodded for open play area and an enhanced tree growing environment.

Your comments have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8th) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

#### 3. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

Hope you are well. Reaching out in regards to our local park, Florence Gell. I am sure you are well aware, this community is small and mighty. Passionate about the neighbourhood, and highly engaged, united and vocal. Consider us a small town, everyone knows each other and we advocate for each other. The survey for improvements to the park went live today. We had been counting down for the opportunity to be consulted. The link was shared on our neighbourhood facebook group, and with in just a short hour we already have a very vocal group showing significant concerns about the proposed location, design and serious questions about the space

remaining - potentially un touched. The survey isn't enough. How do you recommend we represent these concerns efficiently, loudly and influence significant change?

City of Toronto Response:

Acknowledging that this email has also been received. A primary response has been provided to your second email.

Regarding the proposed location change, the playground location has been moved directly adjacent to the existing senior playground due to a series of challenging site conditions. Increased play equipment safety setback requirements, and mature tree TPZs (Tree Protection Zones) have resulted in the existing southern location being unfit for a new playground equipment and CSA requirements. A new low metal decorative fence is proposed to run alongside the proposed playground location; adequate sight lines will be maintained while obstructing direct access to Althea Road. Space where the existing playground is to be removed will be sodded for open play area and an enhanced tree growing environment.

4. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

We started completing the survey but could not finish the part where it asks us to rank the 4 options. None of these options are an improvement to the current playground in Florence Gell park. They have less area for kids to play, fewer swings, and are not made of sustainable materials. This is quite a disappointment given that you said in our meeting that the new park would be similar (or greater) in scope to the current park. We anticipated receiving proposals like the parks at Ravina Gardens or Kennedy-Margdon or June Rowland. Please do not proceed with the plan to tear down a beloved and well-used park and replace it with something inferior.

Because it was asked in the survey, our household contains 2 adults and 2 children (ages 3 and 6).

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

Your comments have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8<sup>th</sup>) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

5. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

We live in the area and play at Florence Gell Park several times a week. We have yet to complete the survey because we do not think any of the options would be an improvement from what the children current have at the park. We also have an issue with the suggested



location for the new structures being along the street. Currently, the children enjoy running around the structures playing tag and I'm afraid with the new layout it would be a hazard.

If you haven't already yet, please come see what the park is like at its peak Fridays 3:30pm and it gets busier as 5pm approaches.

We are not the only ones who feel this way. Please, if we could revisit the design else we would rather the park stay as it is.

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

The playground location has been moved directly adjacent to the existing senior playground due to a series of challenging site conditions. Increased play equipment safety setback requirements, and mature tree TPZs (Tree Protection Zones) have resulted in the existing southern location being unfit for a new playground equipment and CSA requirements. A new low metal decorative fence is proposed to run alongside the proposed playground location; adequate sight lines will be maintained while obstructing direct access to Althea Road. Space where the existing playground is to be removed will be sodded for open play area and an enhanced tree growing environment.

Your comments have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8th) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

6. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

I am writing as a member of the Humber Valley community concerning the up coming renovation to the play space at Florence Gell Park on Varsity Road.

We have been requested to complete a survey which included four possible play structure options. The general consensus among our community and in my opinion as well, is that none of these structures are particularly inspiring. We have 50-75 children use this park everyday after school. Lots of littles taken there by care givers during the day and is a big hot spot on the weekends. Our community is very tight knit one..so much so that the families that move out of it come back all the time to visit this park, knowing they will bump into old friends. With all this said we would love to have more of an influence on what exactly goes into the park, while the opportunity is here. Most people are suggesting more of a playscape environment, like the examples below:

<https://www.kompan.com/>

<https://www.kompan.com/news/kompan-catalogue-2021>

<https://www.earthscapeplay.com/>

Not sure how feasible this is but is definitely on the wish list and feeling this would suit our community best.

At one point we heard talks of a bigger splash pad too. What we have is actually a sprayer but I know shows up on the city records as a splash pad...it is not. It accommodates the very littles, that's it. The closest water relief is High Park which is not walkable with smaller children. Hope this can be part of the change.

Hope this email finds you well and somehow we can broaden the chats and influence of this exciting change.

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

Your comments have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8th) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

7. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

Leah - I know you are coming back to a slew of emails after vacation, and Gord's office is also likely hearing from the community. I know this based on our community board on Facebook, conversation at the school parent council and from discussing at the park with the parents where we meet after school everyday.

As a high functioning member of this community I want to add my concerns of the design options but recognize this likely is due to budget and other road blocks. I want to call it out bluntly. How do we lobby for a park just like Sorauren Parks recent improvements? We simply want to influence location of the park and maintain the wooden and natural aspects of the park. I'm sure you can empathize that a park so close to our beautiful Humber river experience should exemplify its surroundings.

How much money do we need to raise, how much noise do we need to make, and to whom?  
Help us please!

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

Your comments and input have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8<sup>th</sup>) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. The community response and enthusiasm has been heard and additional methods of participation are being explored. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

8. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

We have just finished your survey and would like to add a couple of points that we think are very important.

We believe the existing location should be maintained for the playground because the mature trees provide much needed natural shade for the playground.

Also the current location has less area facing any street that is close by and does not require any fence. We have utilized the park for many years and found that this was not a factor. Families using the premises continue to be conscious of the location of their children at all times. As a teacher at Warren Park School (the local school), I felt safe and secure bringing my classes over the years to the park to play and enjoy the playground and natural openness.

We are pleased to hear of the proposed face lift for the park. Our children have spent many, many days at the park while growing up and our grandchildren continue to regularly utilize the park.

Have a good day.

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

The playground location has been moved directly adjacent to the existing senior playground due to a series of challenging site conditions. Increased play equipment safety setback requirements, and mature tree TPZs (Tree Protection Zones) have resulted in the existing southern location being unfit for a new playground equipment and CSA requirements. A new low metal decorative fence is proposed to run alongside the proposed playground location; adequate sight lines will be maintained while obstructing direct access to Althea Road. Space where the existing playground is to be removed will be sodded for open play area and an enhanced tree growing environment.

Your comments have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8th) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

9. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

Thank you for the opportunity to fill out the survey for the new proposed park. I did not see anything about the splash pad area. Will that also undergo improvements?

City of Toronto Response:



Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

This project is captured within the Playground Enhancement Program. The current scope of work is to include the playground equipment improvements and any necessary related site works. The splash pad is not included within the project's scope of work at this time.

10. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

I'm writing on behalf of my family as residents of Warren Park and daily visitors of Florence Gell Playground.

I've answered the questions in the online survey and wanted to share my concerns with some of the design directions.

The valley is gifted with so much foliage and greenery, and the existing playground is designed with that in mind with earth tones and materials. I'd like to advocate that we continue deeper discussion around the design, color, and material choices of the Florence Gell Park Playground.

The Charles G Wiliam playground that opened recently off Sorauren is a great example of what we all have in mind. Please let me know what is needed by the community to help further facilitate a playground of this design. Happy to attend any meetings, facilitate fundraising activities or email any councilors who we should garner attention.

Thank you in advance for your help

City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

Your comments and input have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8<sup>th</sup>) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. The community response and enthusiasm has been heard and additional methods of participation are being explored. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.

11. To Councillor Perks' office and/or Senior Project Coordinator:

I've reviewed and submitted feedback on the Design of the Florence Gell Playground online.

I know from our local Facebook page, parents are not happy with the playground choices nor re-location design. I know the playground well as my son used these structures in creative play 25 years ago! Solid wood with opportunities to imagine new ways of moving through and around it. To remove and scrap this goes against a zero waste opportunity.

I agree we need an accessible area but this does not necessitate a 'throw the baby out with the bath water' scenario. The location beneath old trees is shade from the heat of the summer and leaving it where it is will not disrupt the vegetation with machinery.

Invest the dollars allocated to a DESIGN for a wonderful accessible playground **addition** to the beloved wood play structures. PLUS educational pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and build bulb outs on Varsity Rd to slow down drivers next to the park!

I just found some notes from Gil Penalosa's Walk in the Park series, where the Mayor in Tirana holds a "Think With Me" weekly session where children are invited into his office. **May I suggest a site visit with the CHILDREN here.** What do they want??

Thanks for your consideration.

#### City of Toronto Response:

Thank you very much for your feedback on Florence Gell Park playground enhancement project. We understand playgrounds are a beloved part of any community and your feedback is always appreciated.

This project is part of the Playground Enhancement Program, as playgrounds have an average lifespan of approximately 25 years. These improvements will ensure a long lasting, safe, and accessible playground for future users. The current scope of work is to include the playground equipment improvements and any necessary related site works.

Regarding the proposed location change, the playground location has been moved directly adjacent to the existing senior playground due to a series of challenging site conditions. Increased play equipment safety setback requirements, and mature tree TPZs (Tree Protection Zones) have resulted in the existing southern location being unfit for a new playground equipment and CSA requirements. Space where the existing playground is to be removed will be sodded for open play area and an enhanced tree growing environment.

Your comments and input have been received and noted within our records. Once the survey closes (December 8<sup>th</sup>) we will compile all information, analyze the community feedback and work on a plan for next steps with the design. The community response and enthusiasm has been heard and additional methods of participation are being explored. This will be communicated to the community once next steps are proposed. Please check back to project webpage ([www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground](http://www.toronto.ca/FlorenceGellPlayground)) regularly for updates.